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### **Elderly Couple Injured in Swampscott Fire**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Swampscott Fire Chief Richard Carmody and Swampscott Police Chief Madigan said last night's fire at 370 Forest Avenue in Swampscott appears to have been started by smoking materials. An elderly man and woman were seriously injured in the fire.

The fire started in a family room between the garage and the main part of the house.

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Swampscott Fire Department, Swampscott Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Police assigned to the Essex County District Attorney's Office. The investigation is ongoing.

### **Smoking Leading Cause of All Fire Deaths and Elderly Fire Deaths**

Improper use and disposal of smoking materials had been the leading cause of home fire deaths in Massachusetts since World War II. In 2007, smoking caused 17 or 43% of all home fire deaths. Smoking has also been a leading cause of fire deaths among the elderly and caused half of all fire deaths to people over age 65 last year.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently launch a ***Smoking & Home Fires Campaign*** to put an end to the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths – fires started by smoking materials. The campaign is designed to alert smokers and those who live with smokers about simple steps they can take to stop the fire before it starts in their home. It encourages smokers to "Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time."